

SHOP talk

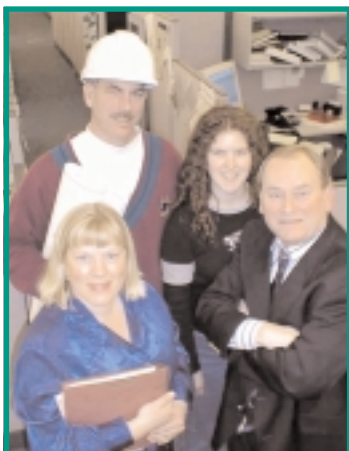
Volume 5, No. 3

Plant Operations Support Program

Winter 2001

The “little program that could” celebrates five years

By Jim Erskine, GA Public Affairs



Your Consortium staff:
(Left to right) AnneMarie Bammert,
Phil Person, Amanda Leaverton and
Bob MacKenzie.

Not pictured: Scott Adams
(Photo by Art Arneson).

There are not a lot of state-sponsored programs that handle and resolve the diverse requests of the Plant Operations Support Consortium. On any given day, Consortium staff receives requests to locate whacker packers, sticker stackers, 150 teddy bears, industry benchmarks or perhaps a model-bow tugboat. Members may call the staff to request an on-site assessment of their custodial section or ask the Consortium staff to serve as construction managers and salvagers to demolish an old feed mill on their property.

The Consortium staff has also

partnered with members to flesh-out business opportunities, such as the Lexan® Restoration Project at Washington Corrections Center (WCC) in Shelton, Washington. The result — a highly successful start-up operation validated by WCC — promises to save taxpayers thousands of dollars in Lexan restoration costs.

“The program is always there when you need it,” says Jim Miller, construction maintenance supervisor at WCC. “Bob MacKenzie was the catalyst that made the Lexan project happen. We love the great customer support we get from him and the program. They’ve saved us tens of thousands just on our fleet purchases as well.”

The Department of General Administration’s Plant Operations Support program is celebrating five years of providing assistance to public facility and maintenance managers. Originally conceived as a clearinghouse and focal point for maintenance, the self-sustaining program has blossomed into much more. The program — usually called the Consortium by

“We leverage cooperation and collaboration in many ways, and General Administration is committed to the Consortium, so ‘making things happen’ is a way of life. We remain focused on our customers, and act like a close-knit family business in getting things done. We determine the need, how we can do something quickly, cheaply, and most effectively without re-inventing the wheel ... then we drive hard to serve our lients.”
Bob MacKenzie, program manager

its members — first started operations in January 1996 and was signed into Washington law in 1997.

“We call it the ‘little program that could,’” said Bob MacKenzie, program manager. “There are unlimited possibilities for success when you’re supporting such a cooperative group of hard-working public facility managers.”

For a small fee, facilities managers get assistance with technical problems, purchasing, contract management, regulatory compliance, organizational development, sustainable operations, construction management, and much more.



Every one of the 575 member facility managers brings experience, resources, and depth to the consortium, which benefits the group as a whole. They represent more than 80 state agencies, colleges, school districts and municipalities from Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, British Columbia and Ontario, Canada, and manage nearly 85 million square feet of facility space. Since its inception, the program has saved taxpayers \$5.5 million.

Please see Celebrate, page 8

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- 8 POS Videoconference offers energy-savings hints

GARY LOCKE
GovernorSTATE OF WASHINGTON
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Message from the Governor
January 2001

When I signed House Bill 1066 into law in April 1997, we accomplished more than simply codifying the Plant Operation Support program. Facility maintenance professionals were provided a cost-effective, labor-saving tool designed to make the greatest use of their collective skills and resources.

The consortium is now five years old and deserves praise for making its original objectives a reality. Co-Speaker Frank Chopp and Co-Speaker Pro-Tempore John Pennington sponsored the bill. Tom Henderson of the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, Grant Fredricks of the Department of General Administration, and others helped to create this award-winning family of public facility managers. General Administration serves as the home of the consortium staff, who are to be commended for providing superb customer service.

The Plant Operations Support Consortium is successful largely because of the cooperation, communication skills, and technical proficiency of public facility managers. Working together, they have saved Washington's taxpayers more than \$5.5 million in the last five years.

I am impressed by the prestigious awards that Plant Operations Support has earned for its innovation, productivity, and efficiency. It is gratifying to know that most state agencies have renewed their subscriptions to the program, and that we continue to welcome new educational, municipal, and port members to this exciting group.

Plant Operations Support is truly a model of exemplary public service.

Sincerely,

Gary Locke
Governor

A look back at the day the Consortium became law

Governor Gary Locke signs House Bill 1066 into law on April 21, 1997, codifying the Plant Operations Support program. Sharing in the signing ceremony were (from left to right) Representative Frank Chopp (D-Seattle); Grant Fredricks, deputy director of General Administration; Tom Henderson, then from the Office of Financial Management; Bob MacKenzie, program manager; and Representative John Pennington, (R-Woodland). The bill added a new section to chapter 43.82, Revised Codes of Washington, to read: The Department of General Administration shall provide information, technical assistance, and consultation on physical plant operation and maintenance issues to state and local governments through the operation of a plant operation and support program. The program shall be funded by voluntary subscription charges and service fees.

(Photo courtesy of Washington State House of Representatives)

The Plant Operations Support Consortium

New members appear in green and renewing members are listed in gray type. Welcome and thanks on behalf of the Consortium!

School Districts

Anacortes
Cascade
Chehalis
Clover Park
Columbia-Burbank
Coquitlam, BC
Delta, BC
Eatonville
Enumclaw
Federal Way
Hoquiam
Issaquah
Ketchikan, AK
Lacrosse
Marysville
Mission, BC
Montesano
Mukilteo
Northshore
North Thurston

Oak Harbor

Ocean Beach
Ocosta
Peninsula
Riverside
Rochester
Sequim
Snohomish
Wenatchee
White River
Wishkah Valley
Yelm

Universities/Colleges

Bellevue CC
Big Bend CC
Clark College
Columbia Basin
Cmty Colleges of Spokane
Highline CC
Renton TC

Skagit Valley College

The Evergreen State College
Univ. of Washington

Municipalities

City of Bonney Lake
City of Tukwila
City of Snohomish
Clark County
Cowlitz County
Jefferson County Public Works
Kitsap County
Lewis County
Pierce County
Whatcom County

Canada

Attorney General, BC
Municipality of Peel, ON

Ports

Port of Anacortes
Port of Edmonds
Port of Ephrata
Port of Longview
Port of Mattawa
Port of Olympia
Port of Pasco
Port of Ridgefield
Port of Seattle, SeaTac Airport
Port of Sunnyside

States

Alaska
Idaho Dept. of Admin.
Oregon Dept. of Admin. Svc.
Oregon Youth Authority

Washington State Agencies

Corrections
Ecology
General Administration
Health
Information Services
Liquor Control Board
Military
Parks & Recreation
School for the Deaf
Social & Health Services
Transportation
Veterans Affairs
Washington State Patrol

Co-Speaker congratulates Consortium on five-year anniversary

Five years ago I co-sponsored House Bill 1066, which codified the Department of General Administration's Plant Operations Support (POS) Program. I hoped the program would enhance public facilities maintenance by providing a clearinghouse for lessons learned, best practices, standards and other resources. My expectations have been met and even exceeded with the phenomenal growth of this "family" of public facility managers. Schools, municipalities, ports, colleges, universities, other states and even Canadian provinces now share in the success of the Consortium.

The Consortium results speak for themselves: more than \$5.5 million in hard-earned taxpayer dollars saved! Numerous awards for excellence have seasoned the success story, including the 1997 Golden Circles Award from the International Facilities Management



Co-Speaker Frank Chopp
(D-43rd Dist.)

Association, 1999 Semi-Finalist in the Innovations in American Government and First Place in Public Works of the National Association of State Chief Administrator's outstanding program awards competition.

I would like to take this opportunity, on the fifth anniversary of the consortium's creation, to thank General Administration for sponsoring this winning program. Thanks also to the knowledgeable POS staff for their hard work and dedication to customer service. Finally, thanks to Consortium members who have turned our hopes into reality. I am proud to have had a role in creating this effective organization. We look forward to many more years of outstanding service, resource collaboration, smart thinking and other out-of-the-box innovations to enhancing facilities stewardship.

Sincerely,

Co-Speaker Frank Chopp (D-43rd Dist.)

Speaker Pro Tempore 'proud of support,' applauds Consortium



Rep. John Pennington
(R-18th Dist.)

In April of 1997, Governor Gary Locke signed into law a program that was created to provide facility maintenance professionals with an effective network to optimize their collective resources. Plant Operations Support, first placed into service in January of 1996, had already more than doubled its membership by that time, and was

continuing to expand at a rapid rate. As one of the principal sponsors of this bill, I am gratified to see that the membership has now quintupled.

Moreover, the efforts of the POS program have resulted in more than \$5.5 million in avoided costs and resource savings for facilities statewide. They can confidently offer their members a 5:1 benefit to cost ratio — an exceptional figure for any public agency, school district, college or municipality. The program has gained international acclaim, as well as outstanding reviews from its members. I'm proud of my support of this program, and expect great things from it in the years to come. Congratulations, Consortium, and thanks for serving our collective taxpaying citizens.

Sincerely,

Rep. John Pennington (R-18th Dist.)



Shop Talk is a quarterly publication of the Plant Operations Support program. The newsletter is intended to be an informative and operationally-oriented medium for public facilities managers. Contents herein are also available on the program's web site at www.ga.wa.gov/plant

We welcome feedback on the newsletter's contents and input from readers. We reserve the right to edit correspondence to conform to space limitations. Bob MacKenzie is program manager and editor (360) 902-7257 or E-mail bmacken@ga.wa.gov. Special thanks to AnneMarie Bammert, Phil Person and Amanda Leaverton for editing assistance. Plant Operations Support does not make warranty or representation, either expressed or implied, with respect to accuracy, completeness or utility of the information contained herein. Plant Operations Support assumes no liability of any kind whatsoever resulting from the use of, or reliance upon, any information contained in this newsletter.

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Marsha Tadano Long, Director.

To request this information in alternative formats, please call (360) 902-7215, or TDD (360) 664-3799.

Oak Harbor School District takes its show on the road

Rolling workshops improve maintenance time-on-task

Photos and story by Amanda Leaverton, Consortium staff



(Left to right) Ken Mielke, Mike Bain and John Cooper stand proudly in front of their specially outfitted maintenance rigs.

Gary Hansen, maintenance supervisor of Oak Harbor School District (OHSD), joined the Consortium nearly five years ago, as one of the first school district members. Since then, Oak Harbor has partnered with the Consortium and proven to be a true maintenance innovator. Visit OHSD these days and you're bound to see some interesting new sights — and strange-looking vehicles. They look a lot like school buses, but these bright white rigs aren't transporting students anymore — they're carrying workbenches, generators and rack upon rack of tools. That's right, tools! They are now fully outfitted maintenance vehicles.

"The buses are set up to be able to hit any site with just about anything they need to complete a multitude of projects," said Hansen. "We started this project two years ago, when we agreed to accept a 25-passenger school bus from our district's transportation shop."

The bus had reached the mileage limit for transporting students and, though it was in good condition, was intended for auction. Hansen turned it over to a member of his crew, Ken Mielke, who gradually outfitted the bus to suit his needs. Soon, Mielke was able to respond to just about any kind of

call without making trips to and from the maintenance department.

"It's such a time saver because I've got everything I need right there with me," said Mielke, who affectionately calls his rig the 'Mielke Way.'

Today, the maintenance department is outfitting its third addition to this rolling workshop fleet. Employees are given the option of using these units or continuing to use the regular vans, but the choice is easy when the benefits are considered.



Ken's individualized approach to an Oak Harbor rig.

"The cost for used fleet vans ranges from \$10,000 to \$11,000 and so far there has been no cost to my department for the buses," said Hansen. "And, time efficiency in our department has increased 100%."

Costs for fabricating the special interiors run between \$1,500 and \$3,000 depending on the sophistication and trades specialty, said Hansen. Shelving built by "a good carpenter" could be done for approximately \$600 in two or three days, he said. Painting can be done in-house for minimal cost, or externally for around \$2,800 each. Many districts could benefit from such an approach, according to Hansen, and the maintenance section's responsiveness to remote educational facilities cannot be equaled.

"I think this concept is the first in this state, and it's a real neat way to recycle the small buses," said Hansen. "We're again partnering with the Plant Operations Consortium to provide our lessons learned to Correctional Industries."

For further information about Oak Harbor's innovative approach to bus recycling, contact Gary Hansen (360) 679-5842, E-mail: ghansen@ohsd.k12.wa.us

Amanda Leaverton is a staff intern with the Plant Operations Consortium. She holds a bachelor's degree in English and is a master's candidate at St. Martin's College in Lacey. Contact Mandy (360) 902-7277, E-mail: aleaver@ga.wa.gov



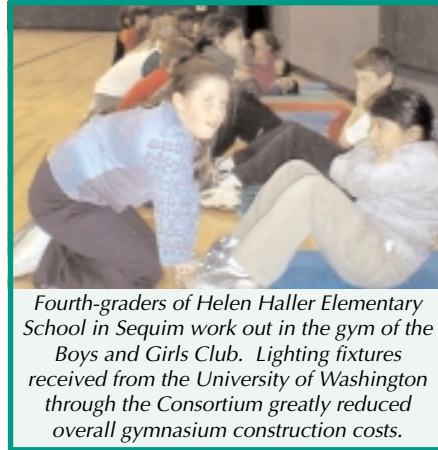
The individualized interior of Mike Bain's converted bus.

Sequim organization enjoys “brilliant” contribution from UW and Consortium

New lights make this facility shine!

Photos and story by Amanda Leaverton, Consortium staff

In the summer of 1999, a number of public organizations benefited from the Plant Operations Materials Exchange. Huge amounts of building materials were made available to members and selected non-profit organizations. In one case, the University of Washington transferred state-of-the-art lights, including six unique fixtures, to the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula, Sequim facility, then in construction, for only \$3,600. Trustee Bryce Fish said the club saved more than \$7,200 on the transaction. Scott Adams, then coordinator of the materials exchange and a current Consortium staffer, remembers the deal. “It was the first time the Consortium had been granted permission to broker



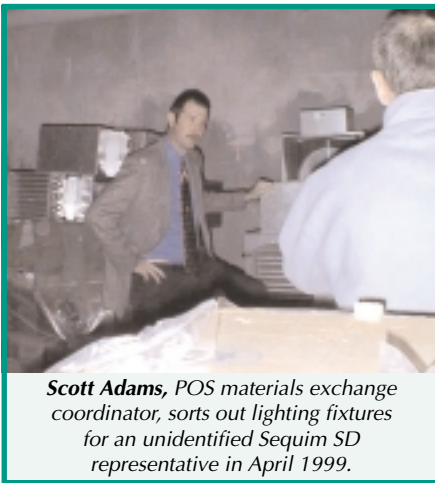
materials to a non-profit organization,” said Adams. “We really wanted to make it work, as they were in mid-construction phases and were willing to “spec” to the unique fixtures and other lighting devices — plus, they’re a great, deserving group of people.”

“The lights are very sharp,” said Fish. “We get a lot of comments on them.”

Sequim School District, a Consortium member, was able to help the Boys and Girls Club get in touch with Adams. But their partnership doesn’t end there. The club sits on school district property, and as a result, students and teachers may reap the benefits of this beautiful facility. PE and art classes are held at the club during the day, and it’s open to students and community members after school and on weekends.

Mary Morgan, executive director of the Sequim facility, is pleased with this arrangement. “It is a very beneficial public-private partnership that will impact thousands of students in the years to come,” she said. “We’re thankful to the University of Washington and the Consortium for making these lighting materials available at such low cost – it really made the difference.”

District employees agree. “This is heaven, compared to where we were,” says June Devine, PE specialist for Helen Haller Elementary School.



Scott Adams, POS materials exchange coordinator, sorts out lighting fixtures for an unidentified Sequim SD representative in April 1999.



Mary Morgan, executive director of Sequim Boys and Girls Club, stands beneath one of the unique lighting fixtures obtained from the POS Materials Exchange in 1999.

Plan to attend the Northwest Plant Engineering & Maintenance Show®

It’s official. Your Consortium staff will welcome you personally to another first-class, free Plant and Engineering Show (NWPE), taking place May 23 & 24, 2001 at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon. This is the second year where Professional Trades Show, Inc. and the Plant Operations Support Consortium have partnered to increase attendance at and awareness of the event.

This plant engineering show unites manufacturers, distributors and suppliers with professionals whose job responsibilities include the management, operation or maintenance of an industrial plant, commercial building or institution and municipal facilities.

NWPE 2001 joins together with the Northwest Materials Handling Show (NWMH) to create a unique combination of exhibits and conference sessions. These shows will offer professionals an opportunity to view hundreds of exhibits that will satisfy virtually all of their plant and equipment needs. Registration for NWPE 2001 will allow the attendees free admission to both shows. **Register on-line @ <http://www.proshows.com/cfm/nwpe.cfm> or call (510) 354-3131, fax at (510) 354-315 or E-mail: showinfo@proshows.com**

Independent survey pegs program's value

Consortium members tell it like it is

by Shop Talk staff

A customer satisfaction survey conducted in January 2001 by *Communication Resources* — an independent company — set out to determine just how valuable the Plant Operations Support Program is to its members. The survey timing coincided with the Consortium's five-year anniversary.

"The results are heartening," said Phil Person, senior Consortium resource coordinator. "We had hoped members would indicate general satisfaction, but meeting such a diverse group's expectations can be quite a challenge in a self-sustaining program."

Members gave the program a score of 5.84 out of a possible 7.0 for overall satisfaction, with 6.0 being "strongly positive."

According to *Communication Resources* survey administrators, "Customers report strong satisfaction across service items, with extremely high satisfaction in courteousness and professionalism."

The survey also recorded strong gratification in the value of POS, as well as the quality of service. When asked for specific comments, one of those surveyed responded, "POS is an extremely good value, [we] are fortunate to belong to such an organization." Another member commented, "This is the best value I have seen in 20 years of federal service and 10 years of state service."

Consortium staff is quick to assure members they will not "take these survey results out of context." The staff was especially thankful for those respondents who took "precious time" to provide detailed comments and recommendations. One respondent in particular elaborated on the Consortium's financial self-sufficiency and challenges:

"POS should be a growth industry. POS has saved me tens of thousands of dollars — from free or nearly-free materials to way-under-market-rate consulting services. I know POS can do even more with more staff. POS needs to be directly funded by the Legislature! Today, POS is forced to solicit voluntary contributions from its membership. Agencies take their voluntary

subscriptions out of their operating budgets. This includes state agencies, school districts, higher education, ports, cities and counties. (It's a credit to POS staff that so many do so — at some costs to their operations). Direct support would free POS staff from the embarrassing (and time-consuming) need to solicit. The current system forces POS to be a "beggar." Since it supports virtually every type of taxpayer-funded entity, wouldn't it make sense for the Legislature to directly fund them so agencies, etc., don't have to rob their own programs to take advantage of this one?"

POS needs to be directly funded by the Legislature! Direct support would free POS staff from the embarrassing (and time-consuming) need to solicit. The current system forces POS to be a "beggar." Since it supports virtually every type of taxpayer-funded entity, wouldn't it make sense for the Legislature to directly fund them so agencies, etc., don't have to rob their own programs to take advantage of this one?" Survey Respondent

POS customers provided information about how the Consortium staff could improve communication with them. Feedback included, "Communications are very efficient and timely with same-day responses in all cases," and "Work on their web site to support ease of use specific to requesting and posting information."

Finally, customers were asked to provide additional comments to the survey. Comments included, "They need a closer linkage with related functions and services provided by GA Division of Real Estate Services," and "Continue to provide the excellent services rendered."

"Obviously, we have a good deal of room to grow and better serve our varied facility managers clients," said Bob MacKenzie, program manager. "The strength of this program relies on members cooperating and making innovation a way of doing business. In that regard, this survey validates our direction and provides ideas for the future."

Survey respondents recommend

While collecting data on levels of satisfaction, courtesy, professionalism and a host of other values, the survey also asked what services members might want to see added to POS. The responses made for an evocative list:

- Fleet & equipment info
- Electrical systems audit
- On-line contract specifications
- Benchmarking facilities costs
- Local facility conferences
- Regular meeting forum for Plant Ops professionals
- Facility audit standards/guidelines
- An electronic library, specific to infrastructure/component/manufacturer and rating, with a comment section for review by managers statewide
- Support the normalization of component identification statewide.
- Establish new accounting codes with definitions that normalize data and include cyclical renewal, preventive maintenance, program improvements, etc. Require annual reports.
- Brokering leftover project materials and require project managers to support this effort
- Support the training, certification and improved competitive compensation that will provide needed tools to protect the public investment.

For a copy of the complete survey, contact your Consortium staff (360) 902-7338 or E-mail: abammer@ga.wa.gov

Consortium members nab Governor's Quality Award



Craig Lindell (standing) and Kirk Walter (driving forklift), maintenance technicians at the Washington State School for the Deaf in Vancouver, relocate components of an industrial kitchen recently obtained from WSDOT's new headquarters — the previous Farmer's Insurance building. The efforts of School for the Deaf, Southwest Region of Washington State Department of Transportation, Larch Corrections Center, Clark College and the POS Consortium were recognized February 16 in Olympia with the Governor's Award for Service and Quality Improvement. (Photo by Dave Turpen)

"Everything Including the Kitchen Sink," a project first reported in winter 2000 **Shop Talk** was recently recognized by Governor Gary Locke in Olympia with the Governor's Service and Quality Improvement Award. This is the second time the Consortium has been recognized with this award. In 1999, the Capitol Lake Rail-Tie Team was recognized for innovation and re-use of construction materials.

When the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Southwest Region purchased a new headquarters building in Vancouver, there was an 18-year-old commercial-grade kitchen occupying 2,000 square feet on the first floor. The WSDOT wanted to renovate the building, reducing the kitchen to only 315 square feet. The kitchen equipment was worth \$187,000 new, but WSDOT would only capture \$15,000 in salvage value - the cost to contract someone to remove it.

The Plant Operations Support (POS) Consortium was leveraged to locate suitable recipients of the equipment and to assist with labor resources for relocation. POS contacted Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) and Clark College as members both located in

Vancouver. WSD is a residential school that serves 12,000 meals a month, and the school jumped at the chance to upgrade its kitchen. Clark College has an extensive culinary training program and campus food service operation and would use anything the WSD could not. Meanwhile, Larch Corrections Center (DOC), another Consortium member, provided expertise and inmate labor to assist with the relocation.

Consortium Team Results

- ★ WSD saved an estimated \$90,000 on equipment.
- ★ WSD saved an estimated \$19,000 salvaging the equipment.
- ★ Clark College saved an estimated \$500 on equipment.
- ★ WSDOT saved \$15,000 in salvage contractor fees.
- ★ WSDOT cut a week of contract labor from their remodeling schedule.
- ★ DOC inmates received valuable practical training in a business-world setting.

Not just a run of the mill job



The old grain mill in Snohomish, destined to be demolished by June 2001.

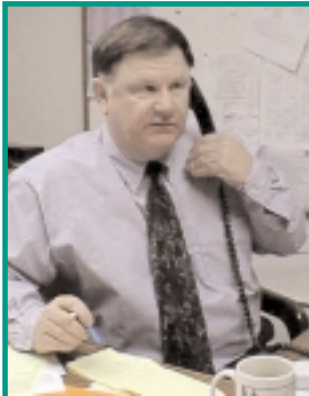
The City of Snohomish, a new Consortium member, has contracted with the staff to identify cost-effective, sustainable ways to demolish a defunct mill. The cleared site will then be used for the city library and other revitalized services. McDonald says the Consortium's reputation for construction management, recycling and collaborative approaches convinced the city council to join and to finalize the project management relationship. Phil Person, senior Consortium resource coordinator, is serving as project manager. **For further information, contact Person (360) 902-0434 or E-mail: pperson@ga.wa.gov** (Photos by Bob MacKenzie).



Bill McDonald, city manager of Snohomish, pauses during a tour of a defunct feed mill in the city center.

Celebrate**(Cont. from page 1)**

A small core staff at General Administration uses Internet technology — interactive web pages, a program list-serve,



Bear Holmes
Facility Director, Enumclaw SD
(photo by Bob MacKenzie)

Shop Talk, an electronic and printed newsletter — videoconferences and tried-and-true networking to connect experts from around the world with the lone handyman trying to fix a school boiler. Besides, MacKenzie, Consortium staff include Phil Person, senior resource coordinator; Scott Adams, resource assistant; AnneMarie Bammert, contracting specialist; and Amanda Leaverton, staff intern.

While technology and connection makes the consortium fast and flexible, it is service that keeps customers coming back.

"Bob makes a lot of personal contacts. You feel like you are the most important customer every time he talks to you," says Bear Holmes, facility director for the Enumclaw School District in Washington. "He is quite a salesman."

Prior to Enumclaw, as facilities manager for Renton Technical College in Renton, Washington, Holmes saved \$140,000 on materials used in a new college building thanks to the Consortium. The University of Washington, a consortium member, was planning to surplus new windows and other building materials bought for a building that didn't get built. Facilities managers at UW called MacKenzie, who called Holmes. Everybody came out a winner.

Holmes received a request from Black Diamond High School in Black Diamond, Washington, (40 miles east of Seattle). The school administrators there asked him to find an authentic coal car to place in front of the high school in honor of the town's mining history. Holmes called the Consortium for help. Later that day, the Black Diamond High School shop class began assembling a coal car from remnants MacKenzie found through another consortium member.

"I can't imagine anyone who has more energy than Bob does," says Holmes. "To get this thing started and make it the success it is today is amazing. I know a lot of public facilities that have benefited from the consortium."

Jim Erskine is a public information officer in GA's Office of Public Affairs. For more information about the POS Consortium, contact staff @ (360) 902-7338 or E-mail: Plantop@ga.wa.gov. Visit the web page at <http://www.ga.wa.gov/plant/Home.htm>

Videoconference to cover ways to cut energy costs



Mark your calendars for an event sure to enhance your ability to serve your stakeholders and cope with rising challenges of facilities management. The Plant Operations Support Consortium is producing a two-hour event: **Reducing your facility energy costs through effective maintenance or How to keep the energy hog from feeding on your facility?** This landmark event takes place 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, Tuesday, April 24, 2000.

Come prepared to discuss how to reduce ever-burgeoning energy bills by employing effective maintenance practices. This shirt-sleeves-up event will give you tools to cope with rising energy costs that cut into your operational budgets. Learn about leading edge technology, lessons-learned and what your peers are doing to operate in tight



Reining-in the energy hog

Consortium members will gather at an April 24th videoconference to discuss ways to cut energy costs. Dave Turpen (seated), facility manager of Washington State School for the Deaf, and Warren Pratt, technician, will talk about their restoration of their "Electric Car." The energy-saving vehicle was obtained from the Department of Social and Health Services through the Consortium and brought back to running order by school staff and the previous manager, Mike Scott. "Everyone just loves seeing this vehicle drive around Vancouver," said Turpen. "It provides a necessary transport function while sending a strong message of energy efficiency."



fiscal times such as these. Whether you've got "war stories" of successes or outright failures, this is the place to candidly interact with your colleagues and learn that you're not alone. Expert panelists will tell it like it is and answer your questions.

Thanks to our sponsors — **Avista Corp. and Puget Sound Energy** — the event is free and taking place at sites around Washington, British Columbia, Oregon and Idaho. Confirmed sites include Spokane, Wenatchee, Mount Vernon, Seattle, Tri-Cities, Vancouver, Lacey, Gig Harbor, and more sites possible within the K-20 learning network. If your school or agency includes a videoconferencing site, let us know and we'll "bridge" to you. Call for directions and to confirm your seat! **Contact AnneMarie Bammert (360) 902-7338 or E-Mail: Plantop@ga.wa.gov**